

in the forests of southeastern Poland. Following liberation, he returned home, only to find that his mother and some of his siblings had been murdered and that the world of his youth had been virtually wiped from the map. Of the 8,000 Jews who had lived in Tomaszow, only 11 were still alive.

Lerman married his wife, Chris, an Auschwitz-Birkenau survivor, after liberation. Following 8 months in a displaced persons camp, they arrived in the United States and eventually settled in Vineland, New Jersey.

In recognition of his contributions to the Holocaust remembrance, in 1978 he was appointed to the advisory board of President Carter's Commission on the Holocaust. At the Commission's first meeting, he testified that in 1945, he had searched for the reason for his survival. But with the goal of creating a museum, he concluded, I feel there was meaning and purpose to my survival in being here today.

Mr. Lerman quickly became a driving force in the creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Following his service on the advisory board, he was appointed to the first Memorial Council in 1980. He has been reappointed to the council by every President since; and with each reappointment, Mr. Lerman has recommitted himself to 3 vital goals: building and securing the future of a permanent national living memorial to the victims of the Holocaust; establishing the international relationships necessary to ensure the museum's preeminence in fostering Holocaust documentation, education, and scholarship; ensuring the museum's mission of remembrance, education, and conscience is transmitted to future generations.

Mr. Speaker, early on Mr. Lerman recognized that collections would be vital to the museum's creation and ultimate success. Through his hard work, the museum's collections now number more than 35,000 objects and 12 million pages of archival documents, in addition to tens of thousands of photographs, films, and oral histories.

Similarly, Mr. Lerman's commitment to Holocaust scholarship led to the creation of the Museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, which promotes research on the Holocaust and ensures the ongoing training of future generations of scholars. It incorporates the Lerman Center for the Study of Jewish Resistance, founded because Mr. Lerman felt strongly that this long-neglected aspect of Holocaust history merited more attention.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude my remarks by calling attention to the words of Senator Robert Kennedy taken from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of June 6, 1966, and I quote:

First is the danger of futility, the belief there is nothing one man or one woman can do against the enormous array of the world's ills, against misery and ignorance, injustice,

and violence. Yet, many of the world's great movements of thought and action have flowed from the work of a single man.

Thank you to Miles Lerman for being that single man, for giving so much of himself to our country. In leading the effort to create the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, not only has he been a guiding hand in the establishment of a remarkable national memorial, but in doing so, he has also provided a powerful and important reminder to all Americans of what can happen when citizens abandon their responsibilities to in a democratic society.

AGRICULTURE RISK PROTECTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of a conference report that passed in the House this afternoon, the Agriculture Risk Protection Act conference report. This bill provides important support for our Nation's farmers and ensures that Americans will have a steady and affordable food supply.

I wish to address an issue that is of particular importance to my central coast district in California, and that is the spread of Pierce's Disease. I am pleased that this bill includes much-needed funding to combat Pierce's Disease and the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter which spreads it. This disease is having a devastating effect on California vineyards and needs to be brought under control before it does even greater damage.

Although outbreaks in my district have been limited, recent sightings of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter are very worrisome. Just the other day, eggs of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter were found on plants at two northern San Luis Obispo County nurseries.

While we have been experimenting with different ways to combat Pierce's Disease, currently, there is no known cure. Central coast wine grape growers are banding together and contributing funds of their own to fight this disease. We in the Federal Government need to support these efforts.

I joined members of the Wine Caucus in urging the agriculture subcommittee to increase funding for combating Pierce's Disease. I am pleased that this subcommittee saw the importance of this issue and provided appropriate funding in the Agriculture Risk Protection Act conference report.

This bill provides the necessary support for our vineyards, with over \$7 million in funding for control and containment activities in California, and \$25 million to compensate growers for losses due to three different diseases,

including Pierce's Disease. These Federal dollars will join with State funds and the private money raised to make a concerted effort to eradicate Pierce's Disease. That is our goal. We cannot rest until a cure for this disease is found, and the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter is no longer a threat.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad and pleased that this bill makes available a major step in that direction.

CLUB DRUG ANTIPROLIFERATION ACT OF 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from California (Mr. ROGAN) to introduce the Club Drug Antiproliferation Act of 2000, legislation to combat the recent rise in trafficking, distribution and abuse of club drugs such as Ecstasy, Liquid Ecstasy, Speed and PMA.

Club drugs refer to drugs being used by young adults at all-night dance parties such as raves or trances, dance clubs and bars. Young Americans are lured into a belief that club drugs are safe ways to get high, escape reality, and enhance intimacy. The drug traffickers make their living off of perpetuating and exploiting this myth.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy's year 2000 Annual Report on the National Drug Control Strategy clearly states that the use of club drugs is on the rise in the United States, particularly among teenagers and young professionals. Data also reflects the increasing availability of club drugs in metropolitan centers and suburban communities.

In a speech to the Federal Law Enforcement Foundation earlier this year, the United States Customs Commissioner, Raymond Kelly, stated that in the first few months of fiscal year 2000, the Customs Service already had seized over 4 million tablets of Ecstasy, an immensely popular club drug. He estimates that the number will grow to at least 8 million tablets by the end of the year, representing a substantial increase from 500,000 tablets seized in fiscal year 1997.

Do not be fooled by the innocent term "club drugs;" no club drug is benign. Chronic abuse of club drugs appears to produce long-term damage to the brain, and sometimes the damage caused by club drugs can do more than harm the brain. It can be deadly. Recently in my district in Illinois, a Naperville Central High School student died after ingesting a very powerful party drug called PMA.

Sadly, Federal law does not take club drugs seriously enough. For example, under current Federal sentencing guidelines, one gram of Ecstasy is

equivalent to only 35 grams of marijuana. In contrast, one gram of methamphetamine is equivalent to 2 kilograms of marijuana. These weak sentencing guidelines result in relatively short periods of incarceration for individuals sentenced for Ecstasy-related crimes. When the potential profitability of this drug is weighed against the potential punishment, it is easy to see what makes club drugs extremely interactive to professional smugglers.

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Mr. Speaker, the Club Drug Antiproliferation Act of 2000 addresses this fast-growing and disturbing problem. First, the bill addresses the base level offense for club drug-related crimes, making those crimes equal to that of trafficking methamphetamine. This provision also accomplishes the goal of effectively lowering the amount of drugs required for a swift prosecution sending a message to Federal prosecutors that club drugs are a serious threat.

Second, through law enforcement and community education programs, this bill will provide for a national club drug information campaign. As more Americans are made aware of the unpredictable impurities and side effects of club drugs, it is our hope that law enforcement will begin to see a dramatic reduction in the quantities of club drugs present on our streets. Let us do what we can to save our children from the fate of that young high school student in our district.

Mr. Speaker, the Club Drug Antiproliferation Act of 2000 can only help in our fight against drug abuse in the United States. I urge all of my colleagues to join the gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN) and myself in this important effort by cosponsoring this bill.

NEED FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN SRI LANKA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, for weeks now, the newspapers have carried stories about the recent escalation in the fighting in Sri Lanka, the island nation located just to the south of India. Sri Lankan Government forces have been battling a violent rebellion by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the LTTE, commonly known as The Tigers, a separatist organization that the United States has designated a Foreign Terrorist Organization. The Tigers' campaign has gone on for 17 years, at a cost of tens of thousands of lives. Their goal is the establishment of a Tamil Eelam, a separate Tamil state in Sri Lanka, to divide this small island nation into two ethnic states, a Tamil state and a Sinhalese state.

Last month, the Tigers stepped up their campaign in the Jaffna Peninsula in the northern part of the island. The government forces have continued to battle the Tigers. Sri Lanka's president, Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga, has vowed not to surrender to the terrorists and not to stand by and allow the partitioning of the country. Instead, the government is urging the LTTE to put down their arms and come to the negotiating table for good-faith talks aimed at addressing the concerns of Tamil people in a peaceful way.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Sri Lankan people, both Sinhalese and Tamil alike, reject the idea of dividing their nation into two ethnically based, ethnically cleansed homelands. The LTTE by no means speaks for all of the Tamil people.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, there are Tamil political parties and organizations committed to working with the government to achieve a higher degree of autonomy through peaceful means. And the government has had on the table for a long time a Devolution Plan that would recognize the Tamils' legitimate claims. If nothing else, the government's plan offers at least a basis for beginning negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, President Kumaratunga, who is elected as the nation's first woman president in 1994, was re-elected last December in an election in which 73 percent of the eligible voters turned out. In the final days of the presidential campaign, she was injured in a terrorist attack blamed on the LTTE. That attack took the lives of 22 people and left more than 100 injured.

Yet, despite this attack and despite the recent escalation of violence by the LTTE, President Kumaratunga continues to ask the separatists to lay down their arms and begin talks.

In this current crisis, Sri Lanka has reached out to the international community to help bring the separatists to the negotiating table. Yesterday, President Kumaratunga appealed to India, Sri Lanka's democratic neighbor to the north, to facilitate the effort to bring the Tamil Tigers to the table. Sri Lankan officials have also been meeting with diplomats from Norway in an effort to resume the negotiations with the rebels that broke off 5 years ago.

Next Monday, U.S. Under Secretary of State, Thomas Pickering, will go to Sri Lanka where he will meet with government officials and other leaders of the other Tamil parties.

Mr. Speaker, the position of the United States and of India and of other Western nations is that this conflict can only be resolved through negotiations, and that the solution should preserve the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. The campaign by the LTTE to force the break up of Sri Lanka does not have the support of the international community, and it must never gain that legitimacy.

As I mentioned, Mr. Speaker, the U.S. State Department has branded the LTTE a terrorist organization. Recently, the parliament of the European Union has urged its member nations to take similar steps. The Tigers maintained their determination for an outright win militarily, but that strategy seems destined only to kill thousands of more people by shattering lives in both the Tamil and Sinhalese communities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Under Secretary Pickering to continue to make clear that this crisis can only be resolved through a political solution. We must step up our efforts to work with other international friends, including India and Western European nations, to maintain the pressure on the LTTE to come to the negotiating table.

The Tigers should join with the rest of the Tamil community to promote the interests of their community through the institutions of the united, sovereign, and democratic Sri Lanka.

OUTRAGEOUSLY HIGH DRUG PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak again about an issue, that, as Members go back to their districts and have town hall meetings, I am certain they are going to hear about. The issue I want to talk about this afternoon is the issue of outrageously high drug prices that we pay in the United States, especially when we compare what Americans pay to what consumers around the rest of the world pay.

What I have here is a chart, and our source is the Life Extension Network. They did research recently and compared the average prices for commonly prescribed drugs in the United States to what the average prices are in Europe. And it really is sobering.

For example, Premarin is a commonly prescribed drug, the same drug made in the same plant under the same FDA approval, incidentally. In the United States, the average price is \$14.98. For that exact same drug in the same quantity in Europe they pay \$4.25.

Coumadin is a drug that my dad takes; it is a blood thinner. In the United States, the average price is \$30.25, but in Europe they pay only \$2.85. And the list goes on. Prilosec, another commonly prescribed drug, in the United States, the average price here in the United States is over \$100; in Europe they are paying \$39.25. Claritin, very commonly prescribed drug, particularly this time of year for hayfever and allergies, the United States is \$44 an average; over in Europe, they are paying \$8.75. The list goes on and on